

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## EHB 1185

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Human Services, March 25, 2025

**Title:** An act relating to membership on the correctional industries advisory committee.

**Brief Description:** Concerning membership on the correctional industries advisory committee.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Fosse, Farivar, Simmons, Wylie and Salahuddin.

**Brief History:** Passed House: 3/4/25, 86-9.

**Committee Activity:** Human Services: 3/18/25, 3/25/25 [DP, DNP].

### Brief Summary of Bill

- Adds two voting members from underrepresented populations who have direct lived experience and who are not currently incarcerated in total confinement to the Correctional Industries Advisory Committee.

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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Wilson, C., Chair; Frame, Vice Chair; Orwall and Warnick.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Christian, Ranking Member.

**Staff:** Kelsey-anne Fung (786-7479)

**Background:** Correctional Industries Advisory Committee. Correctional Industries (CI), a division of the Department of Corrections (DOC), operates businesses within all prison facilities throughout Washington and employs approximately 2200 incarcerated individuals. According to DOC, training and workforce development opportunities are provided to incarcerated individuals through work programs modeled after the real-world, focusing on

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developing both technical and social skills. By linking basic skills, vocational skills, and on-the-job training, incarcerated individuals are prepared for employment when they reenter into the community.

The Correctional Industries Advisory Committee (committee) makes recommendations to the DOC secretary regarding CI. The committee consists of nine voting members appointed by the secretary and four nonvoting legislative members. The nine voting members serve three-year staggered terms, and must include three representatives from labor, three representatives from business representing cross sections of industries and all sizes of employers, and three members from the general public. Voting members receive compensation as a class three group.

Nothing About Us Without Us Act. Legislation passed in 2024 requires the membership of each statutory entity created on or after January 1, 2025, to include at least three individuals from underrepresented populations who have direct lived experience with the issue that the statutory entity is tasked with examining.

An underrepresented population means a population group that is more likely to be at higher risk for disenfranchisement due to adverse socioeconomic factors, such as unemployment, high housing and transportation costs relative to income, effects of environmental harms, limited access to nutritious food and adequate health care, linguistic isolation, and other factors that may be barriers to participation in policy decision making. A person with direct lived experience means a person with direct personal experience in the subject matter being addressed by the statutory entity.

**Summary of Bill:** Two voting members from underrepresented populations who have direct lived experience and who are not currently incarcerated in total confinement are added to the membership of the committee, to be appointed by the Governor.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: Adding the perspective of persons with direct lived experience of working in CI will help inform the recommendations of the committee. Currently, there is no member on the committee who is required to have been through CI while incarcerated. Having someone who is formerly incarcerated who has been through the system and knows the parts of CI that were really beneficial, and knows the challenges they may have went through to use some of those skills to actually find work on the outside, will enhance the work of the committee and is in the same spirit as the Nothing About Us

Without Us Act.

CI is not a good use of resources or time, and is not preparing people for the job market upon release. Many jobs do not provide translatable job skills that will get someone hired at a livable wage when they get out. There are some CI programs like welding that do have viable, long-term successful impacts on people getting out of prison, but they are few and far between. The committee definitely needs people with lived experience who know the difference between the things that will benefit the incarcerated and help them reintegrate back into society, and the things that will not, which will help inform prioritization of resources.

OTHER: The goal of CI programs is to provide incarcerated individuals with work experience and marketable job skills, including soft skills and hard technical skills. Individuals with direct lived experience will be able to help the committee identify gaps that may currently exist in work training programs and which programs may be the most beneficial. These individuals also offer unique perspectives on employment challenges faced upon release. Ensuring those who have been most affected by CI have a voice in their development will strengthen the mission of CI and lead to more effective programs, stronger communities, and better outcomes for those affected by the justice system.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Representative Mary Fosse, Prime Sponsor; Raymond Williams, Just Us Solutions.

OTHER: Jamie Dolan, Department of Corrections.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.